

THE MENTOR

"A Wise and Faithful Guide and Friend"

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STORY OF AMERICA IN PICTURES *THE DISCOVERERS*

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

FERDINAND MAGELLAN

JOHN CABOT

JACQUES CARTIER

VASCO NUÑEZ BALBOA

HENRY HUDSON

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CONSIDERING how comfortably the native peoples of America got on from the Creation down to 1492, and how little liking most of them showed for the Europeans who came to visit them, it is a curious thing that Europe just before 1500 A. D. should all at once have made up its mind to go west, or at least westward. This sudden awakening to the fact that if the ocean had an eastern shore it might have a western was, however, not at all due to any interest in any New World, but to a desire to despoil the Old World. Most of the early discoverers were in their own minds bound for the coast of Asia; for Europeans always knew that there was an India, a Japan, and a China. The Roman Empire tried to send an embassy to China: medieval monarchs liked Chinese silks, and their wives wore pearls from Ceylon. Later, Marco Polo went all the way overland to the Chinese coast, and came back home with wondrous tales which we now know were substantially true; Hanno, the Carthaginian, sailed westward and southward along the African coast, and came back through the Red Sea—and long did the gorilla's skin that

he brought home with him hang in a temple, as a sort of Free Museum of African Art. Yet the bold seamen of southern and western Europe, makers of charts for other seamen's use, were somehow unable to think out a water route to India till the Portuguese, pushing southward again and again, approached the Cape of Good Hope, just as Columbus began thinking of sailing west.

WHY DID COLUMBUS SAIL WEST?

Simply because he thought it was the shortest route to eastern Asia. He knew nothing about Leif Ericson and Vinland the Good, and the Skraelings—these first Americans to criticize the manners of European visitors. Columbus, with all his pluck, discovered America by the same kind of finesse that a bull discovers a stone wall between him and the lady with a red parasol; namely, by striking against it head on. America was a tie across the railroad track of Columbus, a cordon of police keeping people off a baseball field,—America barred Columbus from that Asia which he sought and never saw.

Nevertheless, there was something that animated Columbus, and all the other discoverers after him, besides the wish to get to Asia; particularly after the Portuguese in 1496 found a good water highway around Africa, reached far-off India, and straightway began to conquer it. The first lure to the discoverer was love of adventure; for Europe still put trust in amazing beliefs about human beings who lived somewhere on the edges of the world. Medieval children's books contained pictures of dog-headed men, and men with but one foot, which they twisted up over their heads to form a sun umbrella; and a practical joke that lasted for centuries was the belief that Englishmen had tails. It was an age of adventures; knights errant had just gone out of style; and so commonplace a traveler as John Smith, later of Virginia, fought with Turks. Anybody who desired it could have a first-class adventure with pirates; though



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

The famous British sea-fighter. He plundered the gold-laden ships of the Spaniards along the Spanish Main.

commonly one adventure of that kind prevented a second one. If you sailed to Egypt or Constantinople, you circulated among people who wore outlandish dress, spoke barbarous tongues, and came from impossibly distant countries.

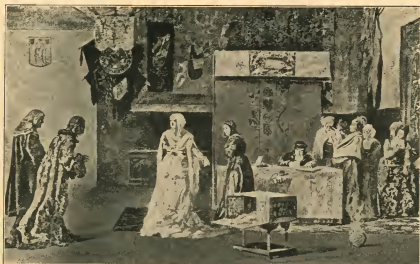
THE JOYS OF DISCOVERY

A youngster could not stir out of his home town in Europe without getting into exciting trouble; and once across the ocean he had the delirious joy of seeing things that white men never saw before. Think of the roaring fun of sailing northward along the American coast with a spanking breeze from the southwest,—today discovering Florida; tomorrow skirting the sea islands of the Carolinas, and netting a big turtle for dinner; next day just sheering off Cape Hatteras, and leaving it to wreck other vessels; the day after looking into the entrance of Chesapeake Bay, and making your first acquaintance with Baltimore oysters; a week later casting anchor between two great tidewaters off a long and rocky island which you neglected to call Manhattan; then getting tangled up in Massachusetts Bay, receiving caneloads of brown savages with streaks of red paint, clad in beaver and otter skins—Supercargo, get your scissors and nails ready for good trading with these innocents! And as you sail along the coast you spy crowds of natives,—natives clad in feathers; natives clad in furs; natives clad in their own innocence; natives enticing; natives shy; natives fierce and bow-armed and disrespectfully urging you to go home again; natives for the first time made aware of the uproarious



COLUMBUS ON THE SANTA MARIA

Many worried days and nights did Columbus spend on the deck of his flagship before land was sighted.



ISABELLA PLEDGING HER JEWELS

The queen of Spain pledged her jewelry to finance the expedition of Columbus. To her faith is due in great part the discovery of America.

joy of alcoholic drink; natives affrighted by the white man's booming thunder-tubes. Who would not be a discoverer of lands hitherto unknown?

THE EARLY DISCOVERERS

All the early discoverers, however much they liked the sport, came over here with an eye to the main chance: they were not sent out by geographical societies to map new countries and to bring home motion pictures of buffaloes and medicine-men. From Columbus on, they were much less interested in the land than in what grew on the land, and particularly what could be dug up from under the land. Columbus and Balboa and Magellan did not go out to bring home painted savages and monkeys, but silks and jewels, and gold, gold, gold, of the Orient. The name West Indies bears evidence of Columbus's belief that through his western route he had reached the Indies—by which people meant the coast of Asia. On one voyage in Cuba he got his sailors together and made them take oath that they were in Asia; and it was a great shock to him later on to bump upon what he reasoned must be a great continent known neither to Marco Polo nor to Vasco da Gama.

Very likely Columbus envied the Portuguese who reached India, pushed eastward to Ceylon and Malacca, and thence to the coast of China,—where at Macao you still may see faded remnants of their tarnished glory,—and to mysterious Japan. Columbus was an adventurer, and a slave trader, and a poor colonizer; but he had the pluck to go where no man had ever gone before. Yet he died without realizing that he had added two continents to human knowledge; that an inferior explorer, Amerigo Vespucci, would affix his name to both those continents, leaving to Columbus the feeble immortality of the United States of Colombia; Columbus, Ohio; Barlow's poem, "The Vision of Columbus"; and "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean."

Of course the mere visiting and naming of the new lands did not enrich the discoverers or the lands from which they came; but Columbus saw the opportunity for picking up other people's territory and transferring it to his masters. For, after all, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain were the people who got the most advantage out of the discovery. Europeans were still like a lot of savage tribes, fighting viciously among themselves for desirable forests and rich meadows and pockets of ore. Ferdinand



THE PINTA

The Pinta was one of the three little vessels with which Columbus first crossed the Atlantic Ocean.



AMERIGO VESPUCCI

For whom the new world, America, was named.

and Isabella had just moved into their new possession of Granada, and at various times the Spaniards were masters of parts of Italy, Naples, Sicily, the Netherlands, and almost of England. The Spanish arm stretched across the ocean instinctively, and as the Spaniards were among the boldest sailors of their time, and were great traders, they forthwith set up a colonial empire; and held on to its last remnant, Cuba, for 406 years.

JOHN CABOT'S DISCOVERIES

When it came to extending an empire, the neighbors of Spain were quite as wide-awake; and hence in 1497 John Cabot, like Columbus an Italian in foreign service, set out to see what lands he could discover for England. That was a bold man too, to

start across the stormy northern sea in a little craft with but eighteen sailors. He discovered a new coast, sailed along it about 300 leagues, probably from Labrador to Cape Breton; and after three months came back alive, and the king dressed him in silk. That puissant monarch, Henry VII., had in view a widening of the power and wealth of England; and a hundred years later the English claimed that Cabot had discovered the northern parts, as Columbus had discovered the western and southern parts—so that the people of the United States are in a way all great-grandchildren of that brave discoverer.

THE PORTUGUESE AND FRENCH

England was not the only European power to join in the scramble, when it was once realized that two magnificent continents lay there without a Christian church or a trading post. It is a curious fact that if Columbus had never reappeared from that mysterious western ocean America would still have been discovered within eight



HERNANDO CORTÉS

The explorer and conqueror of Mexico.



MAGELLAN LANDING AT THE PHILIPPINES

He never came away from there. When fighting on the side of a native chief he was killed. But his expedition succeeded in going round the world.

years; for in 1500 Cortereal blundered upon the coast of Brazil when sailing from Portugal to India. And that is why the Portuguese had a colony in South America; why their descendants are now carrying on the republic of Brazil, and raising the price of our morning coffee. It is a long story how the Spaniards and the Portuguese, under a bull of the pope, drew a north and south line round the world, dividing their colonial possessions, and thus affirming to Spain all of South America except Brazil.

The French were early in the field of discovery. In 1524 Verrazano escaped from hurricanes, and "reaching a new country, which had never before been seen by anyone, either in ancient or modern times," which was probably the coast of Georgia; thence he ran north what he thought to be 700 leagues (though it was not) to Rhode Island. The first Frenchman to claim a great section of America for France was Captain Jacques Cartier, who hoisted sail with two ships from St. Malo in 1534, struck the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and bore away home, returning next year to find "as goodly a country as possibly can with the eye be seen, all replenished

with very goodly trees," which was the banks of the River St. Lawrence. The French, however, struck a part of America not favorable for olives and palms. They thought perhaps they could find a water passage up the St. Lawrence to Asia; but the little town of Lachine just above Montreal was the only China that they ever reached. They got their profit out of the fur trade. And nothing is finer in the history of the New World than the courage and faith with which the missionary and the fur trader, often in the same canoe, set out to civilize the interior. The number of French in the colonies grew very slowly; but the profits of the fur trade made their discoveries worth while to them.

The Italians and Germans, who were among the best seamen of their time, ought to have had a share in America; but they were absorbed in wars of their own, for which they paid a terrible price. Now, when they would like colonies, they found the New World had all been allotted. So for a century the Spaniards had it pretty much their own way, and for a long time could not get rid of the idea that America was made up of enormous islands; even when Balboa, in 1513, set out to find that big western water of which the natives told him; even after he dabbled his feet in the boundless Pacific Ocean, the Spaniards still hoped that there was a rift in the continent, and that somewhere they would find a western road to India after all. After the conquest of Mexico by Cortés in 1523 they knew that the land was continuous, and began to dream of a canal—though it has been left to the United States of America, and to our day, to make that dream true.

MAGELLAN CIRCLES THE GLOBE

Yet it was not a Spaniard, but a Portuguese, who brought triumph to the ghost of Columbus by proving true Columbus's main contention that you could reach Asia by sailing west. No bolder discoverer ever lived than Magellan, who, fitted out by the Spanish government in 1520, navigated his little fleet down the east side of South America, crossed the mighty fresh-water entrance to the Amazon, followed every indentation of the coast, fought his own men when they mutinied, named the big natives in the south Patagonians (that is, "big feet"), finally struck the strait that still bears his name, and entered upon a sea which he called the Pacific. Months passed before he struck the Ladrone Islands, and then the Philippines, where Magellan was killed by the natives; nevertheless one of his ships rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and returned to Spain. For the first time in the history of mankind the world had been circumnavigated.

The Philippine Islands thus became Spanish property—probably a



CARTIER AT MONTREAL

It was he who gave the Gulf of St. Lawrence its name.

special dispensation of Providence, so as to keep the islands in subjection till they could be in due time transferred to the United States! As the Spaniards agreed with the Portuguese not to claim territory, nor to seek conquest in Asia, west of the Philippine Islands, that archipelago was considered by the Spaniards a part of the West Indies; and that is how in 1577 Drake was able to capture a treasure ship bound from the Philippines to the isthmus, and to relieve it of its superfluous wealth.

One reason why the Spaniards were the only people to found permanent colonies in the first hundred years after the discovery was that they hit upon the only part of America that could make them rich. They occupied and promptly conquered Mexico and Peru, in which there was an accumulation of gold, the product of ages. Having robbed the natives of what they had, they then began to work the mines, especially the two Potosis of Peru and Mexico; and for nearly three centuries what they called "plate fleets" brought home the specie that made Spain for a time apparently the richest country in Europe. That is why the English freebooters, particularly Drake, attacked the Spanish towns, tortured the



HENRY HUDSON

The discoverer of the Hudson River and Hudson Bay.

inhabitants, and captured the Spanish caravels: they wanted a part of the booty. Meanwhile the Spanish sent out colonists, who occupied the islands and parts of the mainland; and sent out new discoverers, like Coronado, who in 1540 penetrated far into the interior of what is now the United States.

The English kept trying to find a northward route west of Greenland to Europe—and within the last few years a vessel has actually made a journey from the Pacific to the Atlantic, around North America, but through a dark and icy sea. Seventy years after Cabot's time the English again turned their attention to the New World; and bold men, like Raleigh and his half

brother Gilbert, explored the coast and vainly tried to settle, first in Newfoundland, then in the Carolinas. After that the principal English discoveries were made in the interior.

DISCOVERY OF THE HUDSON RIVER

The Dutch got started later in the race for America, because they had first of all to fight for their independence from Spain. They were good sailors; found their way to the Orient, where for a time they held Ceylon, and still hold some of the great islands. Then they turned westward, got up a trading company, and sent out Henry Hudson, an Englishman. Hudson struck the best part of the whole coast, the mouth of a river that was a natural highway into the interior. With it the Dutch got the rich valleys of that river and of the Mohawk, and also the Delaware. Henry Hudson was preparing the way for people who had natural business sagacity. A witty New England minister once remarked that the Pilgrims came to America for principle, but that the Dutch came for both principal and interest. It was a stroke of genius to become the middlemen between the Europeans and the powerful Six Nations, and to get a fur trade which compared with that of the French, and did not lead to so many frosts bites.

The discoverers were men of a big type—they had to be, for most of them completed their journeys only by driving their crews with the flat of their swords, and sometimes with the point. A man had to be a good steersman and at the same time a hypnotist to arouse his fellows to the

belief that there were great things somewhere beyond the western skyline. They were great men because they had great plans. Columbus looked forward to being a viceroy of Spain in Asia. John Cabot crossed the ocean in what would now be thought a craft too small for a Banks fisherman—and what is more he got back to tell the tale. Balboa was the first man to plan the conquest of Peru, and was practically murdered before he could get started. Magellan pointed the way to a relation between Europe and America and eastern Asia which is today the most important of international relations. Cartier was one of the boldest of the tribe; though no gulf, no strait, no continent, is named for him. Hudson made his discoveries under a foreign flag, and helped to build up a rival to his own country; but he has a great tide river for his monument.

Whatever the motives of the discoverers,—wealth, or power, or rank,—they all united in the great work of enlarging not only the boundaries of the known world, but the possibilities of human life. They opened up chances for millions of their countrymen; they prepared the way for new nations in the west.



HUDSON LANDING ON MANHATTAN

The Indians believed Hudson and his men to be gods, and welcomed them with gifts of all kinds.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Discoverers of America (2 volumes) | <i>John Fiske</i> |
| Spain in America | <i>Edward G. Bourne</i> |
| Christopher Columbus, and How
He Received and Imparted the
Spirit of Discovery | <i>Justin Winsor</i> |
| Toscanelli and Columbus | <i>Henry Vignaud</i> |
| History of the United States (Vol. 1) | <i>Edward Channing</i> |
| Discoveries of Prince Henry | <i>R. H. Major</i> |
| Narrative and Critical History of
America (Vol. 1) | <i>Justin Winsor</i> |
| The Northmen, Columbus,
and Cabot | <i>J. E. Olson and E. G. Bourne</i> |
| Life of Christopher Columbus | <i>Clements R. Markham</i> |



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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COLUMBUS BEFORE FERDINAND AND ISABELLA

The Story of America in Pictures

THE DISCOVERERS

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Monograph Number One in The Mentor Reading Course



N a certain day in February, 1492, there rode along the narrow pass at the foot of Mount Elvira, a few miles from Granada in Spain, a man with his head bowed low over his breast. The little mule he was riding stumbled along wearily. Suddenly behind him he heard the noise of swiftly galloping hoofs. Still he did not raise his head. But when the single hurrying horseman drew alongside at last and slowed down, the rider of the mule looked up to see who it was. There followed a hurried conversation of few words, and then the man on the mule, his eyes beaming, his face alight with hope and pride, and his head erect, turned quickly his jaded beast, and, together with the man on horseback who had followed him, rode back the way he had come.

The man on the mule was Christopher Columbus, and the one who caught up to him was a messenger sent by King Ferdinand of Spain to tell him that at last, after seven long years of weary waiting and pleading of his cause, his requests were to be granted. He was to be made commander of an expedition that was to attempt to discover a new and shorter way to Asia, India, and the magic East. Only that very morning Columbus, tired of waiting around the Court of Spain, had set forth intending to present his cause to France, with the hope that he might get aid there to pursue the great enterprise he had in view.

This man, Columbus, or Colombo, as his name is spelled in Italian, was born at Genoa, Italy, somewhere about 1446 or 1451. It was probably about 1474 that he first conceived the idea of discovering a new route to Asia. For the next ten years he made proposals of discovery to many of the governments of Europe; but none would listen to him. Finally, after he had almost given up hope, Spain agreed to aid him.

On Friday, August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail in command of three little ships, the Santa Maria, the Pinta, and the Niña, the largest of which, the Santa Maria, was only ninety feet long. On the twelfth of October of the same year land was seen, and Columbus landed on one of the Bahama Islands, formally taking possession in the name of King Ferdinand of Spain. Columbus named the island San Salvador. This island is supposed to be the one now known as Watling Island.

Columbus returned to Spain in March, 1493, and his journey through the country to Barcelona was a triumphal march. In September of that year he sailed again, and discovered the Windward Islands, Jamaica, and Porto Rico. He founded a colony and returned to Spain. On his third voyage he discovered the Orinoco. Then he was accused on false charges by men who were envious and jealous of him, and he and his brother Bartholomew were taken back to Spain in chains. The captain of the ship on which he was brought back offered to remove the chains; but Columbus answered, "No, I will wear them as a memento of the gratitude of princes." On reaching Spain, however, he was quickly freed.

His fourth voyage was to explore the Gulf of Mexico; but he was taken sick at San Lucar and lay there for several months. Broken in body and spirit he returned to Spain and died at Valladolid on May 20, 1506. The house in which he died bears a small tablet which reads simply, "Here died Columbus."



THE LANDING OF COLUMBUS

The Story of America in Pictures

THE DISCOVERERS

THE CABOTS

Monograph Number Two in The Mentor Reading Course



ALTHOUGH it was Columbus who discovered the land of the western hemisphere, North America was really discovered by the Cabots, John and his son Sebastian. And it is interesting to note that, while all three of these men were Italians, their great discoveries were made under the flags of foreign countries. Columbus, who never knew that he had found a new land, but believed always that he had reached Asia, served the king of Spain. The Cabots were in the employ of English merchants.

Giovanni Caboto, or John Cabot as he is called, was a native of the same town as Columbus, being born in Genoa in 1450. Most people think that Columbus was the only man of his time to believe that the earth was round; but there were many others who had the same idea, among them being John Cabot. Full of this idea, he moved to London about 1484. He submitted his proposition to the leading merchants of Bristol, England, and met instant encouragement.

For many years Cabot tried to carry out his plans to reach Asia by sailing west; but all his attempts ended in failure. And then in 1493 the news reached England that a sailor named Columbus had reached the East Indies by sailing westward. Cabot and his backers immediately decided to accomplish the same thing, and on May 2, 1497, he set out with Sebastian, two other sons, of whom nothing is known, and eighteen men, in a little ship called the *Mathew*.

At last, after being fifty-two days at sea, at five o'clock on Saturday morning, June 24, 1497, they reached the northern extremity of Cape Breton Island. North America had been discovered; but John Cabot, finding the soil fertile and the climate pleasant, was firmly convinced that he had reached the northeastern coast of Asia, from where came the silks and precious stones that he had seen at Mecca. The royal banner was unfurled, and in solemn form he took possession of the country in the name of King Henry VII of England.

On his return to Bristol in August he hastened to court, where the king gave him \$50 for having "found the new isle."

The following year Cabot made a second voyage of discovery, hoping this time to secure some of the fabled riches of the East. But he sailed too far to the north, and was finally forced to return without having realized his dream. He died the same year, 1498.

His son Sebastian was born at Bristol, England, in 1477, and accompanied his father on his first voyage to North America. After the death of John Cabot, Sebastian made many voyages to both North and South America. He died in 1557.



The Story of America in Pictures

THE DISCOVERERS

VASCO NUÑEZ BALBOA

Monograph Number Three in The Mentor Reading Course



Alone on a high peak in Panama a man stood gazing westward with glistening eyes. Spellbound he stood, thrilled by the wonderful sight spread out before him,—a wilderness of forest, cut through with silvery streams, and bounded by the watery horizon. There before him lay the ocean, since named the Pacific, for the sight of which he had labored and fought so many days and nights. Sparkling like a million precious stones beneath the glare of the sun, the vast, seemingly boundless sea spread out farther than the eye could reach.

“With eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific, and all his men
Looked at each other with a wild surmise,
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.”

Balboa sank to his knees and gave thanks to God for the great blessing bestowed upon him of being the first civilized man to look upon this wonderful sight; then rising he called to his men, who at his command were waiting below on the mountainside, to come up where he was and gaze upon the glorious ocean which they had so long sought to behold. They rushed up, and when they were all gathered together on top of the mountain Balboa formally took possession of this ocean and all the adjacent lands in the name of his royal master, the king of Spain, and had a tree shaped in the form of a cross and placed on the spot from which he had first seen the sea. Around this tree was placed a heap of stones to hold it in place, and then the entire company knelt down while the priest offered devout thanks to the Almighty.

This was on September 25, 1513, when Vasco Nuñez Balboa was thirty-eight years old. He was born at Xeres de los Caballeros, Spain, in 1475. Being heavily in debt at Hispaniola, he escaped his creditors and joined an expedition under Martin Fernandez de Encisco by concealing himself in a barrel, in which he was taken aboard the ship. This expedition was bound to the colony of San Sebastian in Darien; but they were shipwrecked and met hostile natives. Then they learned of the destruction of the colony of San Sebastian, and decided to found one of their own, which they called Santa Maria de la Antigua de Darien. Balboa couldn't get along with Encisco, and he set out to explore the country, discovering the Pacific, which he called the “Mar del Sur,” meaning “Sea of the South.”

Later he was enticed back to the colony and tried on the charge of treason. After a short trial, which ended in his conviction, Balboa and four of his companions were executed. This was in 1517. Balboa protested his innocence and loyalty to the last; but in vain.



COLUMBUS' FLAGSHIP, THE "SANTA MARIA"

The Story of America in Pictures

THE DISCOVERERS

Monograph Number Four in The Mentor Reading Course

FERDINAND MAGELLAN



OUR little ships—battered, storm driven, their rigging coated with ice—struggled along a narrow, tortuous strait fringed by snow-clad mountains. Up and down on the deck of the foremost vessel, the *Trinidad*, strode a thin, haggard man, peering ahead through the mist with anxious eyes. Beside him walked another man, bearded, talking in short, sharp sentences. Louder and louder grew his words, fiercer and fiercer his gestures; but the haggard man said nothing, only shaking his head stubbornly.

This was Magellan, the first man with the courage to attempt to sail entirely around the world, pushing on, as he said, "even if we had to eat the leather of the rigging." That was the brave commander's last day of doubt, however, for on the next day, the twenty-eighth of November, 1520, his little fleet rounded the *Cabo Deseado*, the "desired" western end of the Strait of Magellan, and sailed into the peaceful ocean named "Pacific" by Magellan himself.

Ferdinand Magellan had an exciting life. He was born in Portugal about 1480. He was only twenty-four when he made his first voyage to India, where he was wounded in battle. A few years later he fought bravely against the Malays at Malacca, and received as a reward for his many services the rank of captain. He continued to distinguish himself on many subsequent voyages and campaigns.

But he was not content with the honors he had won. Like Columbus and most of the adventurers of that time, Magellan dreamed always of a shorter route to the East by sailing westward. His idea was that at the extreme south of South America there was a strait.

About this time he got into trouble with Manuel, king of Portugal, and renounced his nationality, going to Spain, there to offer his services to Charles V. Finally with the aid of several powerful friends at court he managed to persuade the Spanish king that his plan was possible. On August 10, 1519, the little fleet of five ships started on their hazardous voyage, only one of them ever completed. To equip this expedition cost over \$250,000.

After many months of struggles and disappointments a western passage was at last discovered—now called the Strait of Magellan. But even when the little fleet had managed to get through this into the calm waters of the Pacific, their troubles were only beginning. For ninety-eight days they crossed this sea, only twice sighting land—two bare little islands, sterile and uninhabited. Sawdust and rats became coveted food. But at last, in March, 1521, the *Ladrones* were discovered, and a little while afterward the Philippines.

From these islands Magellan never came away. Fighting on the side of one of the native chiefs against a hostile tribe, he was killed on April 27, 1521.

The *Victoria* managed to round the Cape of Good Hope and reach Spain once more. But only thirty-one men returned to Seville in the first vessel that ever made the tour of the earth.



DE SOTO DISCOVERING THE MISSISSIPPI

The Story of America in Pictures

THE DISCOVERERS

JACQUES CARTIER

Monograph Number Five in The Mentor Reading Course



It is a peculiar fact that so little is known about the early life of the discoverer of the St. Lawrence River, Jacques Cartier. He was born in 1491; but this great French navigator is first heard of in 1534, when on the twentieth of April he started from St. Malo in command of an expedition consisting of two ships and sixty-one men to look for a northwest passage to the East.

This was what most of the early discoverers and explorers were trying to find. They were not farseeing enough to know that this great, savage country that blocked their way to India was some day to be one of the richest and greatest lands in the world. So when the French trade to Brazil in South America was stopped, Cartier set out in 1534 to find a new way to the mystic East with its fabulous wealth.

He reached Newfoundland on May 10, and at once entered the strait of Belle Isle, then called the Bay of Castles by the fishermen. But the land was found to be barren and rocky. So Cartier sailed away from there on June 15, and cruised down the west coast of Newfoundland and up the coast of New Brunswick. He anchored for ten days in Gaspé Harbor, where he made friends with some Huron-Iroquois Indians from Quebec. Two of these he carried away with him. At last, however, he had to give up his search for a northwest passage that year, and sail back to France.

But he didn't give up this idea. In May, 1535, he set sail again, this time with three ships. On the ninth of August he dropped anchor in a great gulf, to which the next day he gave the name of St. Lawrence. About a month later he reached the mouth of the Saguenay. The two Indians whom he had taken to France were with him. They told Cartier that Saguenay was the name of a kingdom "rich and wealthy in precious stones."

This was great news to the navigator, and he resolved to find this kingdom. In longboats he set off up the St. Lawrence River. On October 2, he came upon the Huron-Iroquois village of Hochelaga. This village was situated exactly where the city of Montreal now stands.

Cartier found that he couldn't go up the river any farther because the swift Lachine Rapids were in his way. He climbed to the top of Mount Royal, which still bears the name he gave it, and saw the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa stretching away to the west. When he got back to where he had left his vessels he seized the chief and eleven of the head men of the village and carried them away with him, in order to give the King of France accurate information about this great, rich country of the north which he had not seen.

In 1541 Cartier made a persevering attempt to discover this land of dreams; but without success. He never reached the mythical Saguenay. On September 1, 1557, Jacques Cartier died.



THE LAST VOYAGE OF HENRY HUDSON

The Story of America in Pictures

THE DISCOVERERS

HENRY HUDSON

Monograph Number Six in The Mentor Reading Course



NE day many, many years ago, some Indians were out in a canoe fishing on what is now the Hudson River. Suddenly they saw a strange apparition coming toward them up the stream. It appeared to be either a big canoe or a wonderful wigwam. Quickly they paddled for shore, after seeing that there were people moving on this strange contrivance, and informed the rest of their tribe. Everyone thought that it must be a number of Manitous (gods) come to visit them. So they dressed themselves in their gayest skins and beads, and went down to the shore to greet the visitors.

When a number of their fair-skinned guests had landed, he who seemed to be the Chief Manitou of all poured something from a bottle into a bowl and passed it to the Indian chief. This one solemnly smelled it and then passed it to his neighbor. He also merely smelled this liquor with the pleasant odor. And thus it went around the circle of braves. Finally, when the bowl reached the last man, he resolved to taste the liquor. He thought that it would probably kill him; but he was not afraid to die for the honor of the tribe. He raised the bowl to his lips and emptied it. Soon he began to sway from side to side, and finally fell to the ground and lay like one dead. After some hours, however, he revived and declared that he had had a wonderful time, and wanted some more of the strange liquor. This encouraged the rest of the braves to try it, and soon the entire tribe was intoxicated.

That is the Indian legend of the discovery by Henry Hudson of the great river that has been named after him. It was in September, 1609, that the little Half Moon sailed into the mouth of the Hudson River, and its navigator landed on Manhattan Island. But Hudson never dreamed that only three hundred years from that time this small wooded bit of land would be part of the second greatest city in the world—New York. In fact, he was not there to found a city. He had but one idea—to discover a northwest passage to India.

Contrary to the belief of many people, Henry Hudson was not a Dutchman, but an Englishman and a citizen of London. He was born there in the latter part of the sixteenth century.

Hudson made his first voyage in 1607, and his second in 1608. It was on his third voyage, in 1609, that he explored the Hudson River. The surrounding country was seen to be pleasant and fertile and full of game. They found few hostile savages, and did a great deal of profitable trading with the peaceful Indians.

On his fourth and last voyage Hudson sailed from England in the Discovery to seek a northwest passage. He did not accomplish his purpose; but he did discover the great bay that now bears his name. The provisions on the ship ran low, and his crew mutinied under the leadership of Robert Juet. Finally, Hudson was thrust into an open boat, together with his little son John, and seven sick sailors, and the boat was cut adrift. Thus he perished on a midsummer's day of 1611 in that great waste of waters which is "his tomb and his monument."

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